

Remarks

Claims 1 to 20 and 22 to 25 are in this application.

Claims 1 to 14 have been allowed.

New claim 23 is based upon dependent claim 17 and is believed to be allowable as indicated.

Claim 24 has been rewritten from dependent claim 18 and is believed to be allowable as indicated.

Claim 25 depends from claim 24 and is believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

Claim 20 has been rewritten with the recitations of dependent claim 21 and is believed to be allowable as indicated.

Claim 22 depends from claim 20 and is believed to be allowable as indicated.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 15 and 16 is requested.

Claim 15 has been rejected as being anticipated by Keller. As amended, claim 15 requires a valve body to have "an annular collar, a first section above said collar. . . .to permit a flow of water thereby and a second section below said collar and within said passage to permit a flow of water through said passage". Keller does not describe or teach such a structure.

As illustrated in Fig. 3 of Keller, a valve unit 8 includes a body 16 in which a valve 35, 36 is mounted for opening and closing a passage 28 in a disc 30. The valve 35, 36 does not have a structure as specifically recited in amended claim 15. Accordingly, a rejection of claim 15 as being anticipated by Keller is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 102. Likewise, a rejection of claim 15 as being unpatentable over Keller is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 103.

Serial No.: 10/695,303
Filed: October 28, 2003

Claim 15 further recites "an O-ring seated in said valve body below said collar for seating of said collar thereon in said extended position to block a flow of water into said passage". Keller is void of any such structure.

Claims 16 to 19 depend from claim 15 and are believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

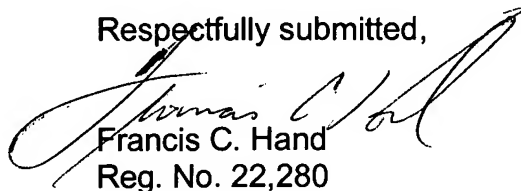
A separate letter is being submitted herewith for approval to correct Fig. 3B of the drawings to illustrate a gap between the O-ring 23 and the housing 19 in order to conform with the original disclosure.

The description has also been amended to conform with the changes made in Fig. 3B. It is not believed that any new matter has been added in this regard in view of the original disclosure that there is to be a flow of water from the passage 18 into the passage 20 in the position illustrated in Fig. 3B.

The remaining reference has been reviewed; however, such is not believed to be further pertinent to the claimed structure.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Francis C. Hand
Reg. No. 22,280

CARELLA, BYRNE BAIN, GILFILLAN,
CECCHI, STEWART & OLSTEIN
Five Becker Farm Road
Roseland, NJ 07068
Phone: 973-994-1700
Fax: 973-994-1744